JONATHAN HICKMAN • ESAD RIBIC • IVE SVORCINA

SECRET WARS

#8 OF 9

MARVEL

"THIRTY KLICKS OUT."

WE'RE ABOUT TO HIT THE BATTLEGROUND...

SO I'M GONNA NEED A FINAL DESTINATION LOCK.

READINGS CONFIRM WHAT SPIDER-MAN REPORTED. THEY'VE ALSO REMAINED CONSTANT UP TO THIS VERY MINUTE...

OUR TARGET IS CASTLE DOOM. PLEASE GET US THERE QUICKLY, MISTER QUILL...AND UNSCATHED.

OH...NO PROBLEM.

I'M ***PLENTY*** FAST...AND I SURE DON'T GET SHOT DOWN.

RARRRRR!

WHAT THE--?!

IT SEEMS THERE'S A ***HULK*** ON YOUR SHIP, MISTER QUILL. I SUGGEST YOU GET IT OFF.

NOW!

TAKING EVASIVE ACTION!

BUT, UH...SLIGHT PROBLEM.

WE'VE LOST OUR AFT ENGINES...

REMEMBER ME PROMISING TO GET US THERE IN ONE PIECE?

YES!

YOU MIGHT WANT TO HOLD ONTO SOMETHING!

SECRET WARS

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THE MULTIVERSE WAS DESTROYED.

•

TWO LIFE RAFTS ESCAPED THE FINAL COLLISION OF EARTH-616 AND EARTH-1610, CARRYING HEROES AND VILLAINS FROM BOTH REALITIES.

•

THE SURVIVORS AWAKENED ON BATTLEWORLD, A PLANET COMPOSED OF THE FRAGMENTS OF UNIVERSES THAT NO LONGER EXIST AND MAINTAINED BY THE IRON WILL OF ITS GOD AND MASTER, VICTOR VON DOOM–AND THE MOLECULE MAN, SECRETLY WIELDING THE STOLEN POWER OF THE BEYONDERS.

•

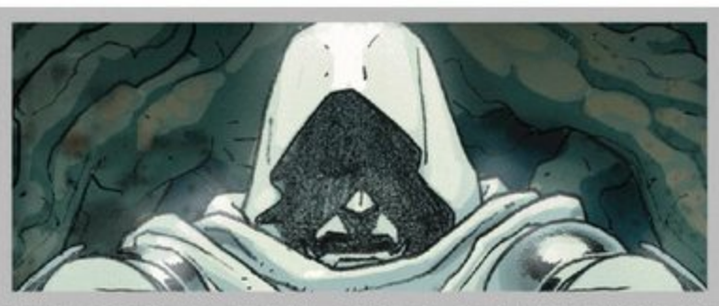
THE SURVIVORS CAME TOGETHER WITH ONE MISSION: TAKE DOWN DOOM. THOR TURNED DOOM'S MOST FAITHFUL AGAINST HIM, REED RICHARDS TEAMED UP WITH STAR-LORD AND HIS OWN COUNTERPART THE MAKER TO INFILTRATE CASTLE DOOM, BLACK PANTHER SUMMONED AN ARMY OF THE DEAD, AND THANOS CONVINCED A MASSIVE BEN GRIMM TO TEAR HIMSELF FREE OF THE SHIELD AND TURN ON DOOM...

08

UNDER SIEGE

CAST

BATTLEWORLD


GOD EMPEROR DOOM, RULER OF BATTLEWORLD

OWEN REECE, THE MOLECULE MAN

SUSAN STORM, ROYAL CONSORT

VALERIA, HEAD OF THE FOUNDATION

BEN GRIMM, THE SHIELD

DOOM'S GENERALS

SINISTER

THE GOBLIN QUEEN

APOCALYPSE

THE MAESTRO

THORS

ENFORCERS OF DOOM'S JUSTICE

SURVIVORS OF THE FINAL INCURSION

THE LIFE RAFT

MR. FANTASTIC

BLACK PANTHER

CAPTAIN MARVEL

STAR-LORD

CYCLOPS/PHOENIX

SPIDER-MAN-616

SPIDER-MAN-1610

THOR

THE CABAL

THANOS

BLACK SWAN

TERRAX

NAMOR

PROXIMA MIDNIGHT

MAXIMUS

CORVUS GLAIVE

THE MAKER

CAN YOU SEE ME FROM YOUR CASTLE, DOOM?

FOR THE MAESTRO IS HERE. AND I HAVE BROUGHT THE ENTIRE GREEN NORTH TO YOUR LANDS.

I HAVE WAITED A LONG TIME FOR THIS DAY! AND WHEN I AM DONE WITH THE ARMIES BELOW, I AM COMING FOR YOU, GOD...

I AM--

HUH?

WHAT IS THIS?

WELL, PAL, CLEARLY IMMA GIANT ORANGE GUY ON HIS WAY TO SETTLE OLD SCORES...

FSHOOOOM

AND YOU LOOK LIKE SOMETHIN' IN MY WAY.

LOOK! THE MAESTRO'S SHIP IS COMING DOWN!

RUN!

ALAS, I CANNOT...

HOW EMBARRASSING.

CRAAAACK

OH, BEN.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

AN *EXPLOSION!*

THE REBELS HAVE REACHED THE CASTLE!

NO. WE WOULD KNOW IF THE LOWER LEVELS HAD BEEN BREACHED. THAT MUST HAVE BEEN SOMETHING ELSE.

BLACK SWAN, WOULD YOU...?

OF COURSE, MY LORD.

I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

WHAT ABOUT BEN, VICTOR?

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT--

I THINK IT'S TOO LATE, MOM.

THIS CHAOTIC WORLD HAS BEEN A WILDERNESS...

...BUT I HAVE FOUND MY WAY HERE! NOW I SEE THE PROMISE OF RETURNING TO WHO I REALLY AM!

HEAR ME, WORLD EATER!

IT IS I, TERRAX THE ENLIGHTENED... YOUR SERVANT! ON ANOTHER WORLD I WAS A *HERALD OF GALACTUS!*

NOW I WILL BE *YO--*

SQUISH!

HEY, DUMMY.

I HOPE YOU LIKE GETTING YOUR BUTT KICKED.

Not what was promised, but any port in a storm, I suppose...

Our planned exit *does* however require a proper egress.

SO FIGURE SOMETHING OUT.

I'VE REACQUIRED A SIGNAL LOCK...

IT'S THIS WAY. COME ON.

You.

Stay here. Fix that.

OH, SURE.

YOU REEDS GO RIGHT AHEAD...

WHEN YOU GET BACK, THE SHIP'LL BE GOOD TO GO AND READY TO FLY.

I'LL BE RIGHT HERE WAITING.

ALL ALONE IN THIS CREEPY-ASS CASTLE.

WANT TO SAVE YOURSELF SOME TROUBLE AND GIVE UP?

YOU *WISH*, SQUIRT.

TIME FOR BED.

THUMM

WHOOOAA!

FRANKLIN!

IT'S... IT'S LIKE A NIGHTMARE, VICTOR...

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?!

PUT AN END TO THIS!

I WILL... BUT NOT JUST YET.

GRIMM WAS THE SHIELD...AND IF THE SHIELD HAS FALLEN...

NICE PUNCH, BUT IT'S GONNA TAKE MORE THAN THAT-- MORE THAN JUST *YOU*--TO KNOCK ME OUT.

I'M TOUGHER THAN THAT.

WELL, THEN... I GOT BAD NEWS FOR YOU, SPORT...

THERE'S A WHOLE LOT MORE THAN JUST ME COMIN'.

ZZZWWOOOO

YES. HERE THEY COME...

ZZZWW

OOOO.

"...THE ANNIHILATION HORDE."

Z Z ZZZZZZWWWW

ZIMM!

VICTOR?

WELL, YOU'VE DONE IT NOW.

DO YOU SEE THAT? GOD IS HERE-- MY *FATHER*--AND HE IS TOTALLY IN A BAD MOOD.

ZIMM!

BOOM

AND SO AM I!

AARGHHHH!

WAIT!

HOLD ON A SECOND...

YOU SAID HE'S YOUR FATHER...

YOU MEAN *DOOM?*

YEAH.

SO THAT MAKES YOU SUZIE'S KID?

YEAH. THAT'S ME.

FRANKLIN VON DOOM. NOW *COME ON!*

WELL, THIS JUST AIN'T GONNA HAVE A HAPPY ENDING, IS IT?

I KNOW WE'RE SUPPOSED TA FIGHT SOME MORE, BUT I AIN'T GONNA...

DON'T SEEM RIGHT NOW.

YOU...

...YOU DO WHATCHA GOTTA DO, KIDDO.

ZZZZAAAAK

OH, FRANKLIN... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

THIS... THIS IS SOME SHOW.

WHAT?!

IT'S SOME SHOW. THE SPECTACLE OF IT. LIKE THEATER.

VAL, WHAT ARE YOU--

DO YOU TRUST ME, MOM?

YES.

DO YOU LOVE ME MORE THAN ANYTHING?

NO MATTER WHAT?

YOU'RE MY DAUGHTER, VALERIA.

OF COURSE I DO.

THEN COME WITH ME...

"I NEED TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING."

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU ARE DOING?

HUH?

WELL, RIGHT NOW I'M FIXING MY SHIP SO THAT WHEN MY PALS TAKE CARE OF THIS DOOM PERSON, WE CAN GET OUT OF HERE.

WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING?

SERVING MY GOD.

DESTROYING THOSE WHO STAND AGAINST HIM.

OH, I SEE...

YOU'RE ONE OF *THOSE* PEOPLE.

YOU THINK IF YOU SAY SCARY THINGS, I'M THE TYPE OF GUY WHO'D TAKE IT TO HEART. LIKE A SHEEP.

WELL, LISTEN UP, LADY...

I'M A BIG BAD WOLF WHO DOES BIG BAD THINGS. I DON'T NECESSARILY LIKE IT-- AND I CERTAINLY DON'T RELISH IT-- BUT I JUST CAN'T HELP MY NATURE.

SO WHY DON'T YOU GO ON BACK TO WHEREVER YOU CAME FROM, BEFORE THIS TURNS INTO ONE OF THOSE *"I TOLD YOU SO"* KINDA THINGS.

OKAY?

CRRASSHHH!

UNH!

SPLEEN. MY SPLEEN.

I'M SURE IT HURTS. FOR PAIN IS WHAT PROCEEDS THE GREAT COLLAPSE. WE ALL HAVE AN EXTINCTION CYCLE... THIS IS YOURS.

I AM A BLACK SWAN, AND *THIS* IS MY NATURE.

WHERE...WHERE'D YOU GO? A LITTLE PIECE SURVIVES THE END OF EVERYTHING AND THEN I GO AND LOSE...

AH! THERE YOU ARE.

OKAY. LAST CHANCE. IF YOU STOP RIGHT THERE--IF YOU STOP RIGHT NOW--I PROMISE I WON'T USE THIS.

ONE FINAL EMPTY THREAT? WHAT A FOOL YOU ARE.

YOU'RE BLEEDING ON MY GOD'S THRONE, LITTLE MAN. TIME TO DIE.

WELL...JUST REMEMBER...

I TOLD YOU SO...

SAY HELLO TO MY LITTLE FRIEND.

SLAM!

WHAT IS HAPPENING...?

WHAT IS THAT?

WAIT FOR IT.

I...

I...

I. AM. GROOT!

OH, BOY...

NOW THIS LOOKS LIKE TROUBLE.

A BATTLE IS RAGING AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE AND NOW THE ***WORLD TREE*** IS WALKING AWAY FROM THE CASTLE!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE DOING, VAL, BUT ARE YOU ***SURE*** THIS IS WHAT WE--

LOOK, MOM. WHAT I'M SAYING IS THAT I THINK WE'VE BEEN LIED TO. FOR A VERY LONG TIME.

AND IT'S MUCH...WELL, IT'LL ALL MAKE SENSE WHEN YOU SEE IT.

SEE WHAT?

WHAT DAD'S BEEN HID--

OH.

VALERIA.

I SUPPOSE I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED.

HELLO, SUSAN.

ENOUGH!

THANOS.

DOOM.

YOU HAVE BROUGHT DOWN THE WALL--PIERCED THE SHIELD I SO CAREFULLY AND COSTLY BUILT--FOR WHAT?

THIS?

YOU WISH TO BE BARON OF THE WASTE?

VERY WELL. I WILL PERMIT YOU TO KEEP THE HORDE IF YOU CAN FIND YOUR FAITH.

CALL IT AN ENDOWMENT OF GOOD WILL. IF NOT...

YOU OFFER ME A GIFT. *ME?*

YOU FORGET, I WAS A GOD ONCE AS WELL. THE INFINITY GAUNTLET GAVE ME THAT POWER.

AND WHEN I WAS A GOD, I DID NOT USE THOSE POWERS AS A MORTAL WOULD...AS YOU HAVE...

SAVING WHAT YOU CAN.

NO, I WIELDED THEM AS A GOD *SHOULD.* IN *JUDGMENT* OF ALL LIVING THINGS.

YOU ARE A WEAK GOD. A *PRETENDER.*

IT IS *YOU* WHO SHOULD BOW BEFORE *ME.*

HMMM.

AND DO YOU HAVE AN INFINITY GAUNTLET NOW?

I DO NOT... YET I REMAIN *THANOS.* THE *GREAT TYRANT.*

AND FOR *YOU* THAT WILL BE ENOUGH.

HURK!

THAT APPEARS...

...UNTRUE.

ANNIHILUS...

SSSSSS.

I AM OWED PENANCE FOR THIS INDULGENCE.

YESSSSS, GOD. YESSSSS. WHATEVER YOU WISSSSH.

THERE ARE HERETICS ATTACKING MY CASTLE...

"I WANT YOU TO DEVOUR THEM FOR ME."

FWASSSH!

WHAT NOW?

THERE'S SOMETHING COMING THROUGH!

NO.

GLORY AND HONOR!

GLORY AND HONOR!

BRAINSSS!

VICTOR!

YOUR REIGN IS OVER...

...AND IT ENDS WITH US.

TO BE CONCLUDED...